

Center for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology

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Background

Established in 1991 to study the genetic causes and origins of common cancers (eg. breast, melanoma, colon, and prostate) and to develop DNA based diagnostics. Focus is on developing approaches to gene mapping and gene isolation for future applications in cancer diagnosis and therapy.

FY94-95 Overview

Current

1994-95 Award	\$20,000
Matching Funds	\$2,884,548
Patents Pending	1
Patents Issued	0
License Agreements	2
Spin-off Companies	1
Companies Assisted	12
Industry Jobs Created	75
Center Jobs Created	33

Cumulative Overview

Cumulative

Awards	\$354,323
Matching Funds	\$12,968,195
Patents Issued	1
License Agreements	3
Spin-off Companies	1

Technologies

- Genetic analysis and gene localization, discovery, diagnostics, and therapies to ultimately identify and isolate genes responsible for common cancers.

Center Highlights

- Commercial partner and spin-off company, Myriad Genetics, Inc., has **attracted international attention and investments** from prominent pharmaceutical companies, including a **combined \$131 million** over the next five years from Bayer Corporation and Ciba Pharmaceuticals.
- Myriad employs more than 60 people and it's economic impact on the state of Utah is estimated at \$7 million a year.
- Myriad became a public company in October 1995 with a valuation of \$54 million.
- The Center has cloned the 17q linked breast cancer gene and the 9p linked melanoma gene.
- Current efforts are directed toward isolation of a second breast cancer susceptibility gene, gathering more cancer families, and conducting linkage studies of breast, colon, and prostate cancers.
- Center director Mark Skolnick **received the 1995 Governor's Award for Science and Technology.**